

Message Text

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65-61

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 /079 W

----- 044846

R 251501Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5058

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

URQMDI/AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO 3775

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 7566

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS; OBSERVATIONS ON ASSAB ROAD

1. ETHIOPIAN HERALD, JUNE 25, IN FRONT PAGE ARTICLE, ANNOUNCED ARREST AFTER SHOOTOUT OF DEJAZMATCH YILMA BESHIE. THE DEJAZMATCH HAD GONE UNDERGROUND FOUR MONTHS AGO, ARTICLE STATED, IN OPPOSITION TO LAND REFORM PROCLAMATION. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, YILMA CAPTURED AT EASMANE VILLAGE IN TEGULET-BULGA AWRAJA OF EASTERN SHOA. ONE OF HIS ACCOMPLICES WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED. PRISONER'S TWO BROTHERS, DEJ. SHOA-REGED AND LT.COL.AMARE, HAD BEEN KILLED IN A SIMILAR FIREFIGHT MARCH 13 IN SELALE AWRAJA OF NORTHERN SHOA, BUT DEJ. YILMA ESCAPED. ARTICLE STATES THAT PRISONER IS TO APPEAR SHORTLY BEFORE THE SPECIAL GENERAL COURT MARTIAL.

2. WESTGERMAN DATT HAS REPORT OF INSURGENT ATTACK ON RADIO ASMARA "LAST WEEK" EMBASSY MONITORS INFORM US THAT RADIO ASMARA RETURNED TO THE AIR NORMALLY JUNE 25 AFTER "DEAD SILENCE" BEGINNING JUNE 22.

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3. FRG EMBASSY HAS SHARED WITH US RESULTS OF JUNE 13-19 RECONNAISSANCE CONDUCTED BY ONE OF ITS STAFFERS ALONG ASSAB-ADDIS ROAD. KEY FINDINGS: (A) ASSAB TENSE BUT QUIET (B) LAND APPROACHES TO REFINERY ARE GUARDED BUT FACILITY IS VULNERABLE FROM THE SEA: (C) TWO BURNED-OUT TANKER TRUCKS SEEN AT KM 30; 5 AT KM 32; ONE TRAILER TRUCK TRANSPORTING PAINT TINNER IN BARRELS APPARENTLY EXPLODED AND BURNED, DAMAGING ANOTHER TRUCK SEVERELY, KM MARKER UNKNOWN. TWENTY-FIVE KMS SOUTH OF ADILE TRUCKS CROSS DAMAGED BRIDGE WHICH FIELD REPAIRS HAVE RENDERED PASSABLE: 25 KMS SOUTH OF SARDO TWO TANKER TRUCKS HAVE EXPLODED AND ARE MIRED IN ASPHALT. CONVOYS REQUIRE APPROX. TWO HOURS TO TURN THIS OBSTACLE. TWENTY-SIX KMS SOUTH OF SARDO EIGHT TANKER TRUCKS AND ONE TRUCK LIE BURNED OUT BESIDE THE ROAD. CAB OF YET ANOTHER TRAILER TRUCK ALSO BURNED OUT AT THIS SITE. ONE BRIDGE IS DOWN JUST NORTH OF TENDAHO BUT OBSTACLE CAN BE TURNED IN DRY SEASON. COMMENT: SCORE: 17 TANKER-TRAILERS AND 3 1/2 OTHER VEHICLES. HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS07566
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750221-0567
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750615/aaaaanem.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS; OBSERVATIONS ON ASSAB ROAD
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET, (BESHIE, DEJAZMATCH YILMA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006